

# Introduction to Theater

*Professor Martin Zurla*

**Course:** Theater 100  
**Course Title:** Introduction to Theater  
**Transferability:** UC:CSU  
**3 units**  
**Instructor:** Martin Zurla

**Office Hours:**

**Via Telephone:** By Appointment via email ([foremost@pacbell.net](mailto:foremost@pacbell.net)). I require at least a three day notice for a Telephone meeting.

**Contact Information:**

Email: [foremost@pacbell.net](mailto:foremost@pacbell.net)

**You might want to take a few moments and review the following short video explaining how to use the ETUDES-NG software:**

**Go to:**

<http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/129.asp>

**PLEASE NOTE: This Syllabus is subject to change.**

**Please start using your personal college email address.**

**I suggest that you do NOT use any hand-held device such as an iPhone, iPad, Blackberry, etc., to take this course. This is especially true when submitting assignments.**

**IMPORTANT:** Course starts **February 10, 2014**. You must access the course no later than **February 17, 2014**. Failure to access the course **on or before February 17, 2014** WILL result in being dropped from this course. First week attendance is determined by completing the Welcome Message Assignment. Check the due dates.

Please be sure to login to the ETUDES course site on the first day of class. It's important to have at least an hour or two available for checking in on the first day so you can look around and get a sense of the workload. Familiarize yourself with the course requirements and due dates so you will be able to plan your time well for the next sixteen weeks. Since this is an intense course, everyone needs to hit the ground running. Plan on logging in at least twice a week.

Remember, late submission cannot be accepted and that there is no make-up work or extra credit offered in this course.

It is the student's responsibility to make sure they have a working computer and internet connection. No technical problems can be accepted as a reason for not completing ALL assignments and exams.

Please note that students are responsible for learning the ETUDES-NG software and for using a working computer. Late submissions will not be accepted. Technical software or computer problems cannot be accepted as reason for not turning in an assignment on time. Make-up work is NOT offered in this course.

I strongly urge you to login early in the week and to login at least twice a week. Make sure you check the Announcement section and the Discussion and Private Message Area (Forums) each time you login. Please review all of each week's modules.

Make sure when you submit to the Forums (Discussion and Private Message Area) you submit to the correct Forum. Make sure you REPLY to my post. It makes reviewing all the posts much easier for both the class and for me. Thanks.

The main reason that I will sometimes ask you to submit one assignment to both areas (Discussion and Private Messages Area AND Assignments, Tests and Surveys Area) is because your submission in the Forums area is part of your class participation and it also gives the entire class the opportunity to share each other's thoughts and comments to the assignment.

The reason you submit to the Assignments, Tests and Surveys Area is so that if I choose to, I can make personal one-on-one comments concerning your work (for your eyes ONLY). I do not share these comments.

**NOTE: I do not live in California. There is a three hour time difference between where I live and California. I'm three hours before you.**

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## HELP and SUPPORT

Check out:  
Student Success Video at

- <http://www.wlac.edu/online/index.asp>
- <http://www.wlac.edu/online/login.asp>
- <http://www.wlac.edu/online/students.asp>

You might want to take a few moments and review the following short video explaining how to use the ETUDES-NG software:

Go to: <http://usdegreeonline.wlac.edu/pages/129.asp>

Please review the information on West Los Angeles College's (WLAC) Online Classes website at <http://www.wlac.edu/online>. Click on the Student Services link to access our online Bookstore to order required materials. Click on the Course Login link for login instructions, Technical Requirements and videos on How to Login, Navigate within Etudes, Read & Post in the Discussion area.

**BEFORE** you begin this course, review the following in your Modules Area (left side of your screen):

**Start Here! (Review ALL sections listed under this module)**

**Student User Guide**

**Taking Tests - Student Side**

Click on the Technical Requirements link at <http://www.wlac.edu/online> to access the Student Help Desk forum where your issue is likely addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions section. If not, scroll down to the WEST ~ WLAC section and post a message explaining the problem or contact the WLAC Distance Learning Program Office at (310) 287-4305 or via email: [ichone@wlab.edu](mailto:ichone@wlab.edu). Also, please check out the following ETUDES-NG Information at: [http://www.wlac.edu/online/ETUDES\\_NG.htm](http://www.wlac.edu/online/ETUDES_NG.htm)

If you are experiencing technical problems you should review the Technical Requirements and Helpful Hints links at <http://www.wlac.edu/online>. If you still have problems please contact the Distance Learning Program office at (310) 287-4305 or via email at [ichone@wlab.edu](mailto:ichone@wlab.edu).

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## STUDENT SERVICES

[Online Student Helpdesk](#)

[ETUDES Login Information](#)

[ETUDES FAQ \(Frequently Asked Questions\)](#)

[Online Student Users Guide \(.PDF file\)](#)

ETUDES Demonstration Videos\*

["Logging in to ETUDES" Demo for Students](#)

["Navigating in ETUDES" Demo for Students](#)

["Reading Discussions in ETUDES" Demo for Students](#)

["Posting to Discussions in ETUDES" Demo for Students](#)

[Online Technical Requirements](#) (when you get to the Gateway page look at the menu to the left)

[Online Academic Counseling](#)

[Online Subject Tutoring](#)

[WLAC's Bookstore](#)

[Library: Heldman Learning Resource Center \(HLRC\)](#)

[New Student Information](#)

[Graduation & Transfer](#)

[WLAC's Online Instructors](#)

[Inquires: Distance Learning Program](#)

[Netiquette\\*\\*](#)

[Strategies for Online Learners](#)

[Be a Successful Online Student](#)

[Tips for Online Success](#)

[How to Plan a Homework Schedule](#)

[How to Find Motivation to do Homework](#)

[How to Get Straight A's](#)

*\*(from WLAC's Website: "Many thanks to Sarah Phinney of Porterville College for sharing these helpful resources.")*

*\*\* Netiquette (a compound formed from "[net](#)" and "[etiquette](#)") is a set of social conventions that facilitate interaction over networks, ranging from [Usenet](#) and [mailing lists](#) to [blogs](#) and [forums](#).  
From: "<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Netiquette>"*

... and if you still have questions, you can always email me at [foremost@pacbell.net](mailto:foremost@pacbell.net)

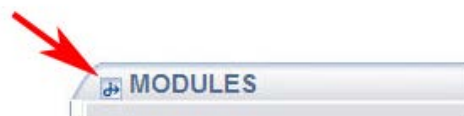
**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

**NEVER, and I do mean NEVER use your browser's "Back" button or key while logged into ETUDES, especially when taking an exam or test. If you do, you will lose all your work and, in an exam, you will be booted out of the exam.**

**In ETUDES-NG, you will see this little icon (looks like the Jiffy Lube logo)**



Like this



**You should click on the icon and it will bring you back to the main area. You will find them everywhere EXCEPT in the Discussion and Private Messages area.**

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course surveys theatre from its prehistoric beginnings to contemporary drama. It emphasizes the reflection of the culture in the drama of each historical period and follows throughout the threads of subject matter, dramatic structure, playwrights, acting techniques and approaches, playing space, and visual elements. This course will also introduce you to the theatre and its related industries.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

**Upon completion of this course you will be able to:**

Have a well-rounded knowledge of the historical background of theatre in the western world.

Gain an understanding of the various theatrical styles and genres throughout history.

Have a working theoretical and practical understanding of how a stage production is put together from the written stage play to casting, to directing, to designing, to producing and eventually to the staging a full live theater production.

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## SLOs FOR THE COURSE

### Discover the links in the arts between the past and present and what they reveal about human life.

This course will introduce you to the theatre and related industries. You will learn to become more aware of the components constituting an artistic entity and to intelligently and objectively evaluate a professional and non-professional performance for the stage. We will study the historical developments in Western dramatic literature and theatrical productions from the Greeks through today. We will also touch on the historical relationship and contemporary impact theatre has had on the film and television industries.

### Read effectively for gathering information, for meaning, cultural understanding and enjoyment. (D. Language and Rationality English)

From reading the following stage plays (LIST PLAYS) and evaluating each from both an historical and a personal perspective, gain a working theoretical and practical understanding of how a stage production is put together from the written stage play to casting, to directing, to designing, to producing and eventually to the staging a full live theater production.

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## REQUIRED READING

### TEXT BOOK

**Theatre: A Way of Seeing**, 6th Edition, by Milly S. Barranger, Publisher: Wadsworth, Thomson Learning, ISBN No. 0495004723 2005

Before downloading the following files, make sure you have [Acrobat Reader](#) installed. For a free copy of this small program, [click here](#).

### STAGE PLAYS (click on the link to download file or view a website)

[Macbeth](#) by William Shakespeare (website)

[A Doll's House](#) by Henrik Ibsen - PDF file

**A Raisin In The Sun** by Lorraine Hansberry (not available for downloading). You will have to purchase this script. This script is usually available in [most public libraries](#).

### ALL CLASS DOWNLOADS (these downloads are included in each Unit's lecture)

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## COURSE REQUIREMENTS (See the [Start Here](#) Module, especially the "Course Schedule and Due Dates")

Reading Assignments: All reading must be done prior to the class for which it is assigned.

Submitting and Completing all Assignments and Discussion topics. Discussion topic DUE DATES are usually due by Sunday, 11:30pm of the announced assignment. **No Late submissions can be accepted.**

Completing Mid-Term and Final Exams

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## FILES

I can only read the following files: MS Word document DOCX, DOC, .PDF, TXT or .RTF files. I **cannot** read Mac files. If I CANNOT read your work, I cannot grade your work.

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## GRADING (See the [Start Here!](#) Module, especially the "Course Grading Policy")

### A Word On Grading

**CHECK THE "ANNOUNCEMENTS" AREA EACH TIME YOU LOGON TO CLASS.**

**If you miss an announcement, you may miss important information that just might effect your final grade point average.**

**It is your responsibility to check the announcement area at the beginning of each week.**

You ll notice that some of your assignments have to be submitted to **BOTH** the Assignment area and the Discussion area.

PLEASE BE AWARE that the assignments posted in the Discussion area are gradable.

BE ADVISED: When submitting your assignment to the Discussion area make sure you submit your work to the CORRECT Forum in the Discussion area. The forum area will be stated in the week's lecture notes (units). It is very difficult to keep track of your submissions if they are submitted to a different forum. **If you submit to the wrong Forum, you will not get credit for the submission.**

REMEMBER ALL assignments have a due date. Once the due date passes, the assignment/test/forums topic will close and you will no longer be able to submit to that particular assignment. I hope the above helps. If you have questions or concerns about the class, please do not hesitate in contacting me.

**Please remember that your final grade will be based on a total accumulation of points, therefore one point can make the difference between an A or B, B or a C, etc. These assignments are not difficult. Check your syllabus for final grade point breakdown. YOUR FINAL GRADE IS NOT BASED ON PERCENTAGES, IT IS BASED ON TOTAL "POINTS".**

This is just a reminder to make sure you read all the assignments listed in the weekly lecture notes and in the Assignment and Discussion areas (Forums). If you have any questions or concerns about the class, do not hesitate in contacting me. Please remember that I am here to help.

Also, when you finish your exams and look at the score, what you will originally see is only the score for the true and false questions. ETUDES-NG automatically scores those questions. I have to personally read and grade your essay questions, so you might check back to see the final total grade point.

**You will be required to complete the following:**

**Mid-Term Exam** (100 points)

**Final Exam** (100 points)

**All Class Assignments.** Points determined by specific assignment. SEE BELOW.

**Participation in the [Discussion and Private Messages area](#)** (points determined by specific assignment)

**REMEMBER ALL assignments have a due date. Once the due date passes, the assignment/test/forums topic will close and you will no longer be able to submit to that particular assignment.**

## COURSE SCHEDULE

**Please Note That These Schedules Are Subject To Change**

MODULE	OPEN	TOPIC
1	10-Feb	Introduction
2	17-Feb	Greek Theater/Intro
3	24-Feb	Greek Theater/Continued
4	3-Mar	The Playwright
5	10-Mar	Shakespeare
6	17-Mar	Shakespeare/Macbeth
7	24-Mar	Ibsen/A Doll's House
8	31-Mar	Mid-Term Review
-	7-Apr	Spring Break
9	14-Apr	Mid-Term Exam
10	21-Apr	Theater Spaces
11	28-Apr	The Actor
12	5-May	Black Theater
13	12-May	The Director
14	19-May	The Designers
15	27-May	Final Exam Review
16	2-Jun	Final Exam

## ASSIGNMENTS AND DUE DATES

WEEK	MODULE	OPEN	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENTS & TEST AREA	DUE	POINTS	DISCUSSIONS AREA	DUE	POINTS
1	1	10-Feb	Introduction	Syllabus Quiz	16-Feb	10	Welcome Message	16-Feb	5
2	2	17-Feb	Greek Theater/Intro						
3	3	24-Feb	Greek Theater/Continued						
4	4	3-Mar	The Playwright	My Play is about	16-Mar	5	My Play is about	16-Mar	5
5	5	10-Mar	Shakespeare						
6	6	17-Mar	Shakespeare/Macbeth	Actor's Case Study	30-Mar	25			
7	7	24-Mar	Ibsen/A Doll's House						
8	8	31-Mar	Mid-Term Review						
-	-	7-Apr	Spring Break						
9	9	14-Apr	Mid-Term Exam	TEST AREA	20-Apr	100			
10	10	21-Apr	Theater Spaces				Mid-Term Comments	27-Apr	5
11	11	28-Apr	The Actor	The Godfather	4-May	5			
12	12	5-May	Black Theater	A Raisin in the Sun	11-May	5			
13	13	12-May	The Director						
14	14	19-May	The Designers	Frustrations	26-May	5	Frustrations	26-May	5
15	15	27-May	Final Exam Review						
16	16	2-Jun	Final Exam	TEST AREA	9-Jun	100			
			POSSIBLE POINTS:			255			20
			TOTAL:						275

#### EXAM GRADING

A	100	-	90
B	89	-	80
C	79	-	70
D	69	-	60
F	59	-	0

#### FINAL COURSE LETTER GRADE

A	275	-	255
B	254	-	234
C	233	-	213
D	213	-	193
F	192	-	0

#### POINT BREAKDOWN

Assignments Area	45
Discussion & Private Message Area	20
Pop Quiz	10
Mid-Term	100
Final Exam	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>

**Notes** (these tests and required assignments are subject to change):

**Please be aware that one point can be very, VERY important; it can mean the difference between an A or a B, a B or a C, etc. for your final grade. Your grade is based on cumulative points, so be very aware of each assignment and make sure you submit them on time.**

**Your Exams and Quiz are located in the Tasks, Test and Survey Area  
Your Unit requirements are located in either the:**

**Assignments Area and/or the Discussion and Private Messages Area.**

## CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING

The topics we are undertaking in our Theatre course this semester have controversy as their theoretical foundation. By definition, since the days of Protagoras, the ancient Greek "Father of Debate" who first taught that all issues have least two sides in order to have debate, One must have controversy. If we all agree then there is no debate for there is nothing to debate. This means that in class during presentations you may be exposed to new, different, and controversial ideas, language and issues with which you may fundamentally disagree, which may offend you in some manner. However, the recognition that controversy is at the heart of debate does not encourage or condone gender, sexist, racist, ethnic, or religious slurs, or any form of slander or hate speech. As always in our class, these forms of speech will not be permitted. However, if you are offended in any way by ideas and/or language that are different than your own, you are free to leave the class. You are not a captive in this class. If you elect to leave, you will incur no loss of credit or points in grading in this class. If you have any questions, please contact me. Some of the language, stage plays, course material and video presentations may be deemed offensive by some people. Please let me know before continuing with this class if think you may have a problem with this type of material.

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### DROP POLICY

If you choose to drop the course, it is **your responsibility** to do so before the official drop date listed at <http://www.wlac.edu/scheduleofclass/schedulecalendar.html> (or see below) You will not be automatically excluded for lack of participation. Please note that the student is responsible for dropping a course at the appropriate time and in the correct manner. See the college calendar for dates. If you have any questions concerning a course drop, please contact WLAC's Admissions Office.

No Excuses can be accepted for missing assignments or test and exam submissions. If you feel you cannot meet this course's requirements, I suggest you drop the course as soon as possible.

If you choose to drop the course, it is your responsibility to do so before the official drop date. Please note that the student is responsible for dropping a course at the appropriate time and in the correct manner.

However, if during the course, a student's total grade point (to date) indicates a failing grade point average, that student can be dropped on or before WLAC's scheduled "Last Day To Drop" date. See dates listed in the course syllabus.

Please note that the student is responsible for dropping a course at the appropriate time and in the correct manner. If you have any questions concerning a course drop, please contact WLAC's Admissions Office.

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### INSTRUCTOR RESPONSE POLICY

If you have a question for me, please post it to the Questions discussion area. If your question is of a personal nature (which you do not want your fellow students to see), send me a Private Message, or email me directly. I will respond to you within at least 48 hours and often much sooner.

Email me at [foremost@pacbell.net](mailto:foremost@pacbell.net)

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IMPORTANT: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Plagiarism is a piece of writing that has been copied from someone else and is presented as being your own work and it is the act of plagiarizing; taking someone's words or ideas as if they were your own.

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### IMPORTANT COURSE INFORMATION

**NO EXTRA CREDIT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THIS COURSE.** You will be required to fulfill all course requirements on or before the due dates. No exceptions. If you think there may be a technical problem, it behooves you to resolve that problem. This course WILL NOT accept technical problems as reason why one could not fulfill the course requirements.

**NO MAKEUP WORK WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THIS COURSE** will be accepted without a written and signed letter sent as a hard copy to me and your college counselor. This letter must detail the reason you did not complete the course requirements. If necessary, you must also attach any support material.

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Spring 2014: Traditional Semester	
SESSION PERIOD	Feb 10 - June 9 2013
APPLICATIONS ACCEPTED BEGINNING	Mon, Oct. 14
<b>REGISTRATION BEGINS</b>	
-Priority	Nov 13 - 17
-Continuing Students	Nov 18 - Dec 8
-New & Returning Students	Dec 9
-Residency Determination Required	Feb 9
Special Registration Hours	Feb 3 - Feb 21 Mon - Thur: 8:30am - 7:00pm Fri: 8:30am - 2:00pm
M-F CLASSES Begin	Mon, Feb 10
Sat CLASSES Begin	Sat, Feb 22
FINALS ( <a href="#">pdf schedule</a> )	JUNE 3 - JUNE 9
<b>LAST DAY TO</b>	
Third Attempt Petitions	Fri, Jan 31
Add/Audit Traditional Classes	Online: Feb 9 In-person: Feb 21
Drop a Class with a refund/no fee owed	Feb 21
Drop a Class w/o a "W"	Feb 21
Drop w/ a W	May 9
File Pass / No Pass	Feb 21
GRADUATION PETITION ACCEPTED	Nov 18 - April 25
GRADUATION CEREMONY	June 10
CAMPUS CLOSED	Presidents' Day: Feb 14-17 Cesar Chavez Day: Mar 31 Spring Break: Apr 7 - April 13 Memorial Day: May 26 Non-Instruction Day: May 27
<i>NOTE: Short-term courses and other accelerated program classes have different deadlines. Please check with your instructor.</i>	

CONTACT THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS FOR CLASSES WITH OTHER START OR END DATES.  
STUDENTS MUST USE THE S.T.E.P. OR INTERNET TO DROP CLASSES DURING NON- BUSINESS HOURS.

WWW.WLAC.EDU

ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS OFFICE HOURS	TELEPHONE REGISTRATION NUMBERS
9:00 AM - 7:00 PM Mon - Thursday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM Friday	(310) 605-0505 OR (213) 689-8888 (323) 226-1999 OR (818) 988-2222

IT IS THE STUDENT S RESPONSIBILITY TO OBSERVE DEADLINE DATES.  
FAILURE TO DROP CLASSES MAY RESULT IN A W OR F ON YOUR ACADEMIC RECORDS.

SOME DROP DEADLINE DATES OCCUR DURING NON-OPERATING HOURS.  
USE THE TELEPHONE REGISTRATION SYSTEM OR THE INTERNET TO DROP CLASSES.

ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS OFFICE HOURS and REGISTRATION NUMBERS

9:00 AM 7:00PM MONDAY THURSDAY  
9:00AM 2:00PM FRIDAY

(310) 605-0505  
(323) 226-1999



(818) 988-2222  
(213) 689-8888

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